



October 17, 2018

Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Notice of Ex Parte Communication, ET Docket No. 18-295; GN Docket No. 17-183

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On October 15, 2018, Robert Weller and the undersigned, both of the National Association of Broadcasters (NAB) had separate telephone conferences with Rachael Bender of Chairman Pai's office and Erin McGrath of Commissioner O'Rielly's office. On October 16, 2018, we had separate telephone conferences with Will Adams of Commissioner Carr's office and Umair Javed of Commissioner Rosenworcel's office. During these calls, we discussed the Commission's draft Notice of Proposed Rulemaking regarding unlicensed use of the 6 GHz band.¹

NAB explained that broadcasters make extensive use of the U-NII-6 and U-NII-8 bands identified in the Draft NPRM. These bands are used for electronic news gathering including, for example, the use of portable transmitters on cameras to relay audio and video as well as temporary fixed links to transmit program material back to studios. NAB appreciates the efforts of the Commission staff to address potential interference issues by proposing to confine unlicensed operations in the U-NII-6 and U-NII-8 bands to indoor operations. However, the specific broadcast uses of these bands raise two significant challenges.

First, confining unlicensed operations in these bands to indoor operations does not address the potential for interference to broadcast operations that may take place indoors – such as at sports venues, political conventions or other events. Second, broadcast use for newsgathering operations, including temporary fixed links, tends to have high “RF visibility” because these links travel over long distances. Such links can easily traverse residential areas where indoor unlicensed operations near windows could cause interference.

¹ *Unlicensed Use of the 6 GHz Band*, Draft Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, ET Docket No. 18-295, GN Docket No. 17-183, FCC-CIRC1810-01 (October 2, 2018) (Draft NPRM).

NAB will address these issues in detail in its comments in this proceeding. We suggest, however, that the Commission would be more likely to gather a full record in this proceeding, including suggestions as to how these issues might be resolved, if the final NPRM directly asked two additional questions: (1) whether unlicensed operations in the U-NII-6 and U-NII-8 bands should be confined to residential areas and how to effectively restrict those operations to residential areas; and (2) whether the database requirements applicable to standard power unlicensed operations in other bands should also apply to low power operations in the U-NII-6 and U-NII-8 bands.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrick McFadden", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Patrick McFadden
Associate General Counsel,
National Association of Broadcasters

cc: Rachael Bender
Erin McGrath
Will Adams
Umair Javed